第十巻
まおゆう
Archenemy and Hero
魔王勇者
「この我のものとなれ、勇者よ」「断る！」
漫画原作
石田あきら 橙乃ままれ
キャラクター原案 水玉模様之巫・toi8
Kadokawa Comics A
まおゆう 魔王勇者

まおゆう
魔王勇者

第十巻

漫画 石田あきら
原作 橙乃ままれ
キャラクター原案 水玉雲之丞・toi8

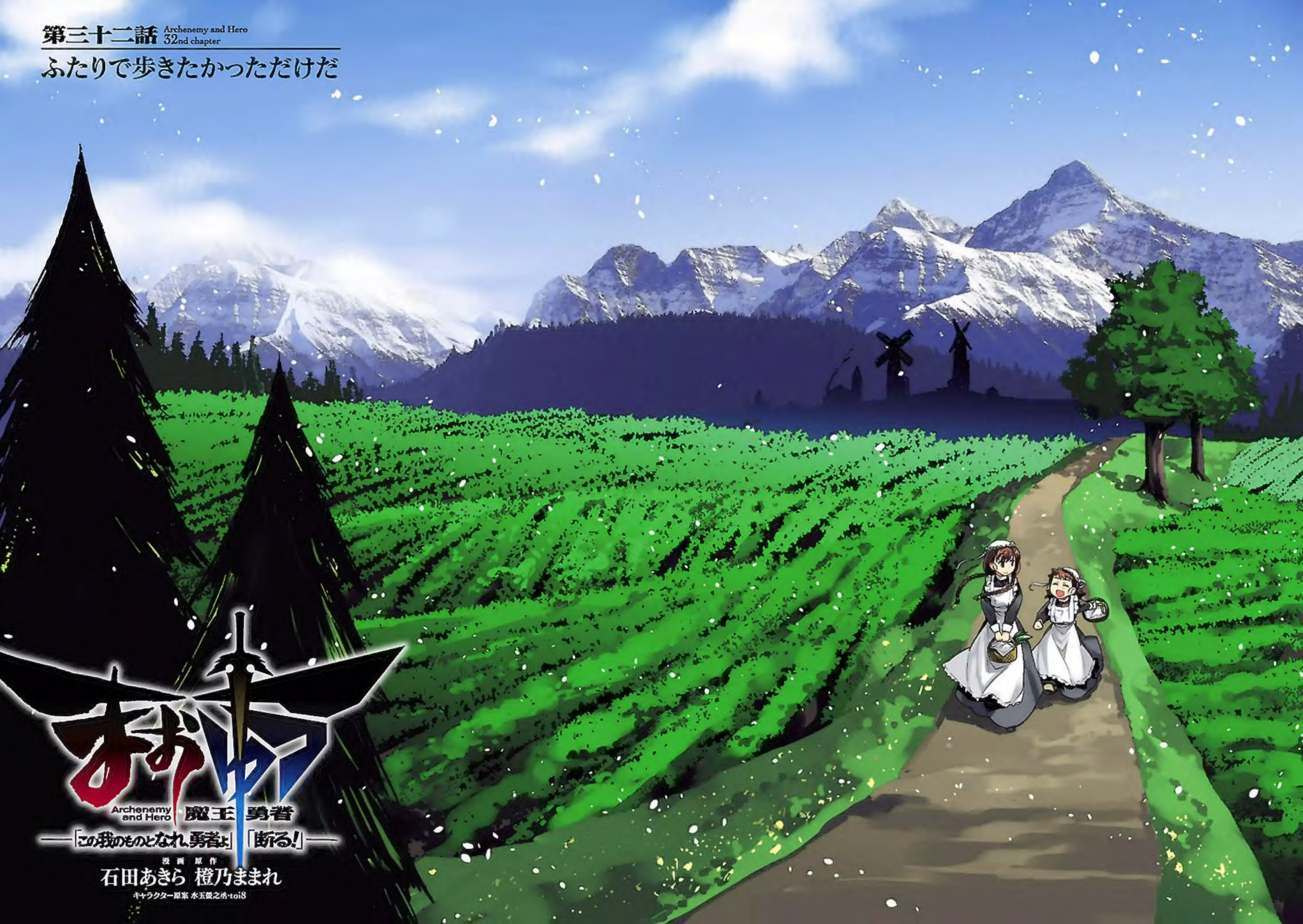
第三十二話 Archenemy and Hero 32nd chapter 001
ふたりで歩きたかっただけだ
第三十三話 Archenemy and Hero 33rd chapter 049
道
第三十四話 Archenemy and Hero 34th chapter 103
人間は生まれた時から世界に巻き込まれてるんです

WEL-COME

BACK!!

THE LONG-AWAITED RETURN OF THE DEMON QUEEN CREW!

第三十二話 Archenemy and Hero 32nd chapter
ふたりで歩きたかっただけだ



まおゆう

Archenemy and Hero 魔王 勇者

——「この我のものとなれ、勇者よ」「断る！」——

The path leading to the future...

魔王、簒奪の危機!!
コミックス9巻、絶賛発売中

Chapter 32 I Just Wanted to Walk Alone With You

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原作：橙乃ままれ　漫画：石田あきら
キャラクター原案：水玉螢之丞・toi8

THIS MANSION IS COMFORTING, AS USUAL.

IT REALLY FEELS LIKE I'M BACK.

MY SISTER IS ALSO HAPPY THAT MASTER AND EVERY-ONE HAVE RE-TURNED.

OF COURSE, I'M HAPPY TOO.

THIS MANSION IS WAY TOO BIG FOR TWO.

FOR THE HALIBUT :: FTH-SCANS.COM
RAW: LOCALHOST // TL: KUUSOU
CL: TACTICS, BLINDINGAWESOMENESS
TS: MITSURU-KUN // QC: BUCHOU

NO.

I DIDN'T MEAN IT THAT WAY.

I SEE ...

SORRY ABOUT THAT.

HP

SURE.

PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT.

I'LL LOOK OVER THE PAPERS HERE.

COULD YOU GET THEM FOR ME?

NO.

THE SUNLIGHT IS WARM AND COMFORTING.

THE WIND IS STILL COLD.

SHOULD I CLOSE THE WINDOW?

!

AHH,

THAT WAS FAST.

トン

トン

HERO.

HEY.

I'VE CARRIED THIS MOUNTAIN OF PAPERS OVER.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING OUT.

heehh

Hmm, I see...

This, and this...

AH,

THAT REALLY IS AN AMAZING AMOUNT.

THE SELECTIONS AND STATISTICS HAVE BEEN GROUPED TOGETHER HERE.

Although all of it has been brought over...

YOU'RE STILL RECOVERING, SO DON'T OVERDO IT.

NO, I...

THANK YOU, THIS HELPS A LOT.

IT'S REALLY EASY TO UNDER-STAND.

THE HEAD MAID IS BASICALLY THE MAID SISTERS' MASTER.

THAT EX-PLAINS IT.

YEAH ...

EVEN IF YOU SAY SO,

BIG SISTER MAID ALWAYS SURPRISES ME LIKE THAT.

AS DEMON QUEEN AND TEACHER, AREN'T YOU PROUD?

ABOUT THAT, I HAVEN'T MET WITH THEM IN A WHILE.

I WONDER IF THEY'RE DOING WELL.

ON THE TOPIC OF PUPILS, WHAT ABOUT THOSE THREE?

I SEE.

I WAS SAVED BY THE MINERAL AND GEOLOGICAL SAMPLES THEY SENT.

THE ONES YOU USED TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE ANDROID CLAN?

THE PUPILS ARE DOING WELL WITH THEIR JOBS.

WHEN I MET THEM FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A WHILE, I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE THEM.

!

ヒソ

OH,

LET'S SEE.

It should be here...

SPEAKING OF THE PUPILS, THEIR RECENT SITUATIONS ARE ALSO EXPLAINED IN THE REPORT.

FOR NOW, THE BUDGET, WHICH WAS DEPENDENT ON THE UNION, HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY RECALCULATED AS WINTER NATION'S BUDGET.

YOUNG MERCHANT IS DOING WELL AS THE FINANCIAL CHIEF OF WINTER NATION.

FOOD PRODUCTION RATE HAS BEEN RISEN ACCORDING TO PLAN.

THE SUSTAINABILITY OF FOOD HAS GONE UP.

SINCE CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE CHANGED AFTER SEPARATING FROM THE UNION, ACHIEVING ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE IS CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS.

THE OLD RECORDS DOCUMENTED ON PARCHMENT HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED ONTO PAPER.

AND THE POPULATION EXPANSION DUE TO REFUGEES IS BEING DEALT WITH.

SINCE THEN, ACCUMULATING THE RECORDS AND ENTRIES OF FAMILY REGISTER HAS BECOME IMPORTANT.

TAKING A HIGH POSITION BRINGS GREATER RESPONSIBILITIES, BUT ALSO GIVES A PERSON MORE RIGHTS.

REALIZING THIS, HE WAS ABLE TO CONFIDENTLY RECALCULATE THE BUDGET.

LIKE WINTER NATION, IRON NATION HAS LOTS OF INCOMING REFUGEES.

SO YOUNG WARRIOR HAS BECOME IRON NATION'S LORD PROTECTOR.

THE INCOMING REFUGEES ARE HIRED BY THE MILITARY AS ENGINEERS.

IN TIMES OF PEACE, THEY ARE EMPLOYED IN AGRICULTURE, FORMING A HALF AGRICULTURAL HALF MILITARY ORGANIZATION.

THE PLAN IS TO COMPENSATE FOR FOOD SHORTAGES BY CULTIVATING ABANDONED LAND.

AFTER DOING THIS FOR FIVE YEARS, AN ADEQUATE AMOUNT OF MONEY AND FARMLAND WOULD BE PROVIDED.

IT ALSO HAS AN EFFECT ON THE COMPLETION OF PUBLIC SERVICE MATTERS LIKE THE BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE OF ROADS

THIS IS HAVING A GREAT EFFECT ON PRESERVING PUBLIC ORDER AND SOLVING POLICE PROBLEMS

THIS CULTIVATION IS HANDLED BY THE MILITARY,

WHO ARE SUITED FOR IT DUE TO THEIR STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

RIGHT NOW WITH THE AMOUNT OF REFUGEES FLOODING IN, THERE ISN'T ACTUALLY ENOUGH LAND TO PLOW.

MEANING THAT EVERYONE WILL STARVE IN ORDER TO FARM. IT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL THAT NEW LAND IS CULTIVATED.

ALTHOUGH IT'S IMPORTANT TO HAVE A WELL-THOUGHT-OUT PLAN,

MODIFICATIONS ALONG THE WAY ARE ALSO CRUCIAL.

THERE ARE BOUND TO BE SOME FAILURES HERE AND THERE, HOWEVER, THEY SHOULD BE SWIFTLY DEALT WITH.

BY APPEASING THE COUNTRIES THAT HAVE SHOWN ACCEPTANCE OF THE THREE NATION ALLIANCE,

HE'S PLANNING ON CREATING A PATH FOR AN ALLIANCE STRONGER THAN THE THREE NATION FACTION.

YOUNG NOBLE SEEMS TO BE RUNNING ALL OVER THE PLACE AS ICE NATION'S DIPLOMATIC envoy.

MANY COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES WANT THE MONEY AND THE ALLIANCE.

HOWEVER, DECLARING THIS IS HARD,

SINCE IT WOULD BE TAKEN AS A REBELLION AGAINST THE HOLY KINGS-LAND AND THE CHURCH.

AND THEN THERE IS THE MAJOR POWER OF THE EAST, RED HORSE NATION.

IF THIS NATION DOESN'T JOIN THE ALLIANCE, THEN IT WILL BE FLANKED BY THE UNION.

RED HORSE NATION

AND SCUFFLED WITH A HUNDRED BRIGANDS.

YOUNG NOBLE BECAME THE FRIEND OF RED HORSE NATION'S PRINCE.

SINCE IT WAS A RUMOR FROM A MINSTREL, IT COULD BE SOMEWHAT EXAGGERATED.

IS THAT REALLY TRUE?

ENGAGING IN FORBIDDEN LOVE WITH OTHER NATIONS' PRINCESSES, FLOURISHING-

UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE SHOWN THEIR EAGERNESS TOO.

FINALLY, THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH RED HORSE NATION TO BE PART OF THE ALLIANCE WERE FINALIZED

YEAH.

THE MATURATION OF HUMANS IS SIMPLY SURPRISING

THEY'RE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THE THREE UNREJ-ABLE PEOPLE THAT STARTED THE R TRAINING AT THIS MANSION.

THAT'S INCREDIBLE.

EVERYONE

IS MOVING FORWARD

SORRY FOR THE WAIT!

THE MEAL IS READY!

トン

トン…

LET'S EAT!

EAT A LOT AND GET BETTER SOON.

OOH.

THIS LOOKS DELICIOUS.

I MUST AGREE.

THIS STEW IS SOMETHING OF A RARITY EVEN IN THE ROYAL PALACE.

LIL SIS MAID IS GETTING BETTER AND BETTER AT COOKING.

THIS IS DELICIOUS!

.....

.....

HOW RUDE!

IF IT'S TIME FOR A MEAL, YOU'LL DEFINITELY BE THERE.

WHEN DID YOU ...

What are you talking about?
Didn't you promise to not talk about it?
Sorry! But always worrying you
Cough Cough

DEMON QUEEN'S TREATMENT IS STILL ONGOING.
O-kay
AFTER THE MEAL, WE'LL GO THROUGH THE ROUTINE TREATMENT.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

ALL BE-CAUSE OF YOU.

THANK YOU, FEMALE KNIGHT.

IT HAS GOTTEN A LOT BETTER.

I'LL DO MY BEST.

HOW-EVER,

DEMON QUEEN, YOU SHOULD STILL INCREASE YOUR STRENGTH.

HUH

OH.

HERO,

ACCOMPANY ME TO THE ABBEY.

YEAH.

HER PROG-RESS IS GOOD.

IS IT DONE?

INDEED.

SAME HERE.

IT JUST MAKES YOU HAPPY FOR NO REASON.

AHH.

THE WEATHER'S NICE

I LOVE SPRINGTIME IN THIS SNOW COUNTRY.

WELL, IT'S JUST THAT YOU ASKED ME TO ACCOMPANY YOU AND STUFF.

THERE'S SOMETHING THAT YOU WANT, RIGHT?

HUH?

SO,

WHAT'S THE MATTER, FEMALE KNIGHT?

HUH,

WHAT ?!

NOPE.

NOTHING AT ALL.

I JUST WANTED THE TWO OF US TO TAKE A WALK.

IS IT REALLY THAT WEIRD?

IT ISN'T ...

...

WE'VE BEEN KEPT BUSY SINCE THOSE DAYS.

I ONLY WANTED TO WALK ALONG-SIDE THE MASTER OF MY SWORD.

IT MAKES ME KIND OF SAD TO SEE YOU ON GUARD LIKE THAT.

-UHH.

IT'S NOT LIKE I WANTED YOU TO DO ANYTHING.

I JUST WANTED TO TRY WALKING TO THE ABBEY VIA THE ROAD WITH THE GROVE OF TREES.

I SEE.

HEH!?

WHAT'S UP WITH CALLING ME THAT?

HEY, MASTER.

もじもじ…

NO, THAT LOGIC IS MESSED UP.

IT'S MY FREEDOM TO CALL THE ONE I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO WHATEVER I WANT.

HERO IS THE MASTER OF MY SWORD.

How about... lord!

The world's going to change?!

ALRIGHT

I THOUGHT IT'D BE OKAY IF IT WAS JUST THE TWO OF US.

BEING CALLED "MASTER" ISN'T MY THING.

LET ME OFF THE HOOK.

HUH?

CAN YOU COMPLIMENT ME?

...AH-

UM...

もじ

もじ

THEN, HERO.

WHAT IS IT?

PRAISE YOUR-SELF...

I WANT TO PRAISE MYSELF RIGHT NOW!

LOOK,

THIS TIME IT'S THE RECOVERY AND TREATMENT OF WOUNDS FOR THE TWO OF YOU.

I WORKED PRETTY HARD ON THAT.

YOU HAVE MY GRATITUDE.

FEMALE KNIGHT, THANK YOU FOR TAKING CARE OF ME.

YOU REALLY HELPED OUT THIS TIME.

EVEN IF YOU DON'T ASK THIS OF ME, I'M STILL REALLY GRATEFUL.

じ...

THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANT!

...GOOD JOB.

FIX THAT COMPLA-CENT EX-PRESSION ALREADY.

I WILL BECOME THE LOYAL SHIELD OF MY SWORD'S MASTER AND ARMOR TO PROTECT HIM.

TO PROTECT YOUR LIFE FROM NOW ON,

Where do you pull out your sword from?

STOP THAT.

NO, NO, MASTER.

YOU'RE FINALLY BACK

THE DEMON WORLD... GOOD JOB SPYING ON THE WORLD BELOW.

HAH.

I HAVE CONFIRMED DEMON WORLD'S SITUATION WITH MY VERY OWN EYES.

THE INHABITANTS OF THE WORLD BELOW...

THE SO-CALLED DEMONS.

SO.

HOW IS IT?

NOW, I

RENEW MY PLEDGE!!

THE DEMON GIRLS ARE ALSO QUITE CUTE.

...SPEAKING HONESTLY,

IT IS CERTAINLY FILLED WITH VARIOUS TYPES OF GIRLS THAT ARE BEYOND THE CONVENTIONAL WISDOM OF THE HUMAN WORLD.

SUPER HIGH CLASS BOOBS TOO,

LOVELY YOUNG GIRLS,

VOLUP-TUOUS WOLVES,

THAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT THING, RIGHT?

THE ONLY THING — IT'S A BIT UN-EXPECTED.

IS THAT THE ONLY THING YOU SAW?

WAIT,

WAIT!

THE TRAVEL-ING MINSTREL GIRL'S SONGS WERE AMAZ-ING, TOO...

EVEN THOUGH THEIR SHAPE, FORM AND CULTURE ARE DIFFERENT,

THEY SMILE AND LIVE NORMALLY.

SPREADING THEIR ROOTS IN THE WORLD BELOW, LIVING

DEMONS ARE NOT JUST THE EVIL BEINGS THAT THE CHURCH MAKES THEM OUT TO BE.

—THEY ARE BEINGS WITH SOULS.

BEINGS WITH SOULS...

YES.

DEMON KING IS NOT THEIR ABSOLUTE RULER.

ALL THE LARGE CLANS HAVE GATHERED FOR A MEETING THAT IS IN PROGRESS TO DETERMINE THE FUTURE FOR ALL DEMONS.

...I SEE.

WHAT KIND OF MAN IS HE EXACTLY?

DEMON KING...

DID YOU CONFIRM HIS APPEARANCE?

UNFORTUNATELY, I WAS UNABLE TO CONFIRM HIS APPEARANCE.

AT THE MEETING GROUNDS, DEMON KING WAS HURT.

ALTHOUGH, DURING THE MEETINGS, ONE OF THE MAJOR CLANS REBELLED AGAINST DEMON KING.

IT DOESN'T NECESSARILY MEAN THAT.

THAT MEANS THAT THERE WON'T BE ANY ATTACKS ON LAND FOR A WHILE.

SO, EVEN THE DEMONS AREN'T MONOLITHIC.

YEAH.

ONE CAN NEVER BE TOO CAUTIOUS.

IT DOES NOT CHANGE THE FACT THAT THINGS ARE IN A STATE OF TURMOIL.

THE REBELS WERE ONLY ONE OF THE CLANS, IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT DEMON WORLD HAS SPLIT INTO TWO.

HOWEVER, SURPRISINGLY ...

THE DEMONS ARE NOT BEINGS THAT ARE INCAPABLE OF COMMUNICATION THROUGH WORDS.

INDEED.

IT IS ONLY WHEN I HAD REACHED THIS AGE THAT I REALIZED.

LOOKING AT THEM AS AN ENEMY, ONE CANNOT TELL.

THE DEMONS BELOW THE GROUND

THE HUMANS ABOVE THE GROUND.

STANDING ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE SAME LAND,

BEINGS WITH SOULS

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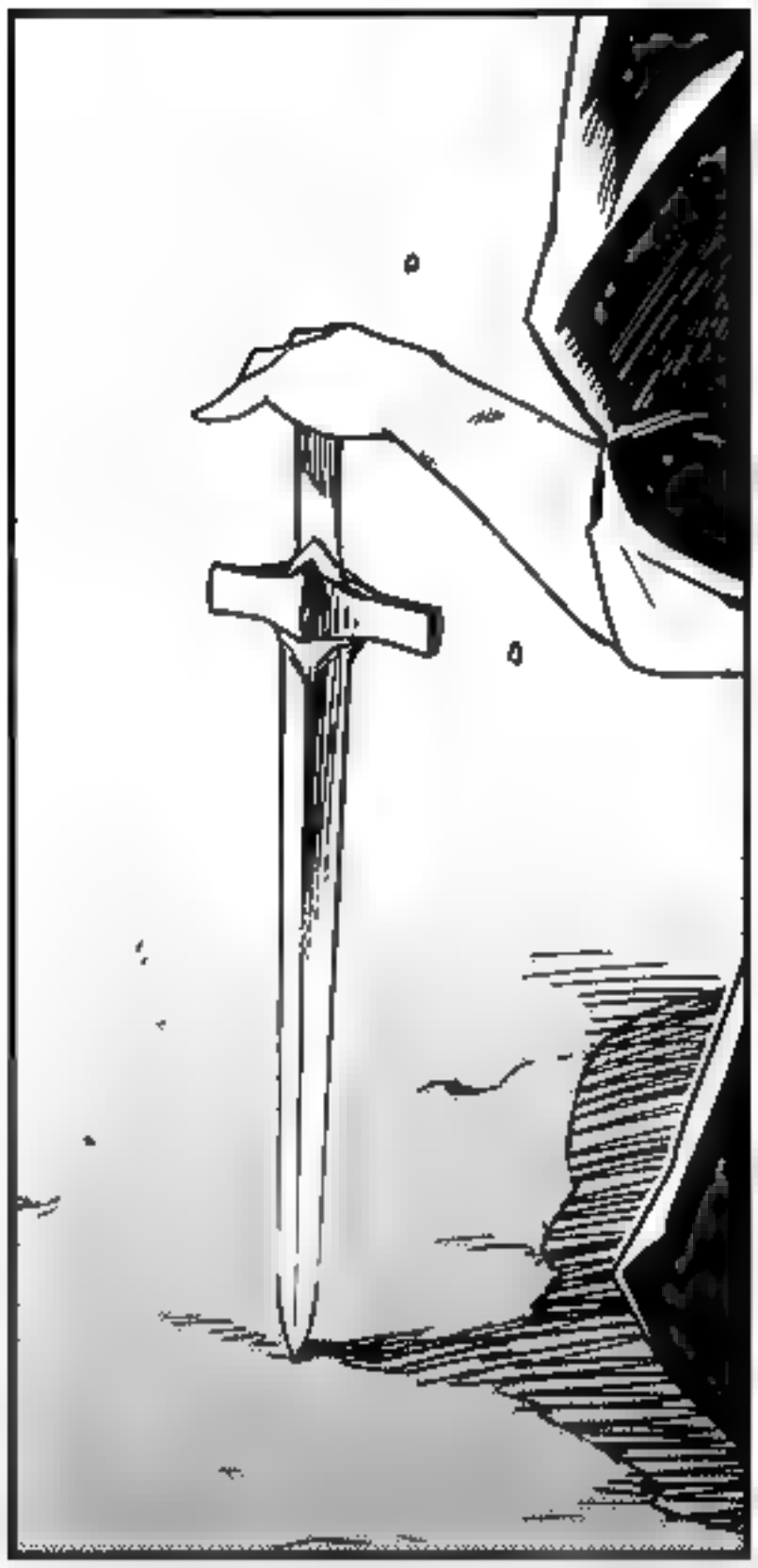


HAA
HAA
WHEEZE

...
FEMALE KNIGHT -SAMA.

IT IS I.

ぱっ

……

SHOW ME YOUR HANDS.

SORRY FOR SCARING YOU.

IT'S FINE.

ブル

ぴと……

DON'T MAKE SUCH A TROUBLED FACE.

I WON'T TELL ANYONE.

.....

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

YES...

IN TIMES LIKE THESE,

EVERYONE NEEDS THE SKILL TO PROTECT THEMSELVES.

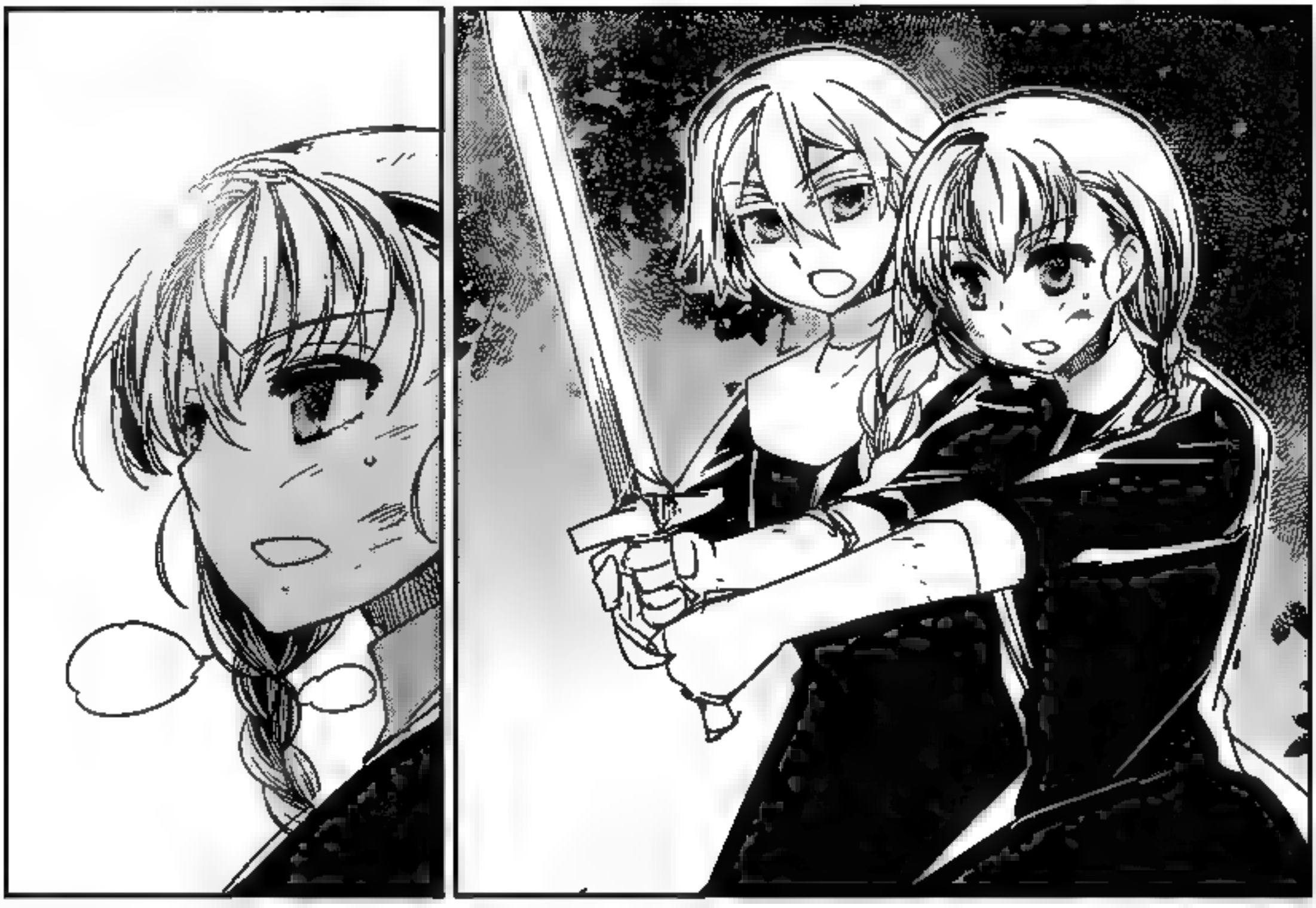
YOU HAVE TO USE YOUR LEGS MORE.

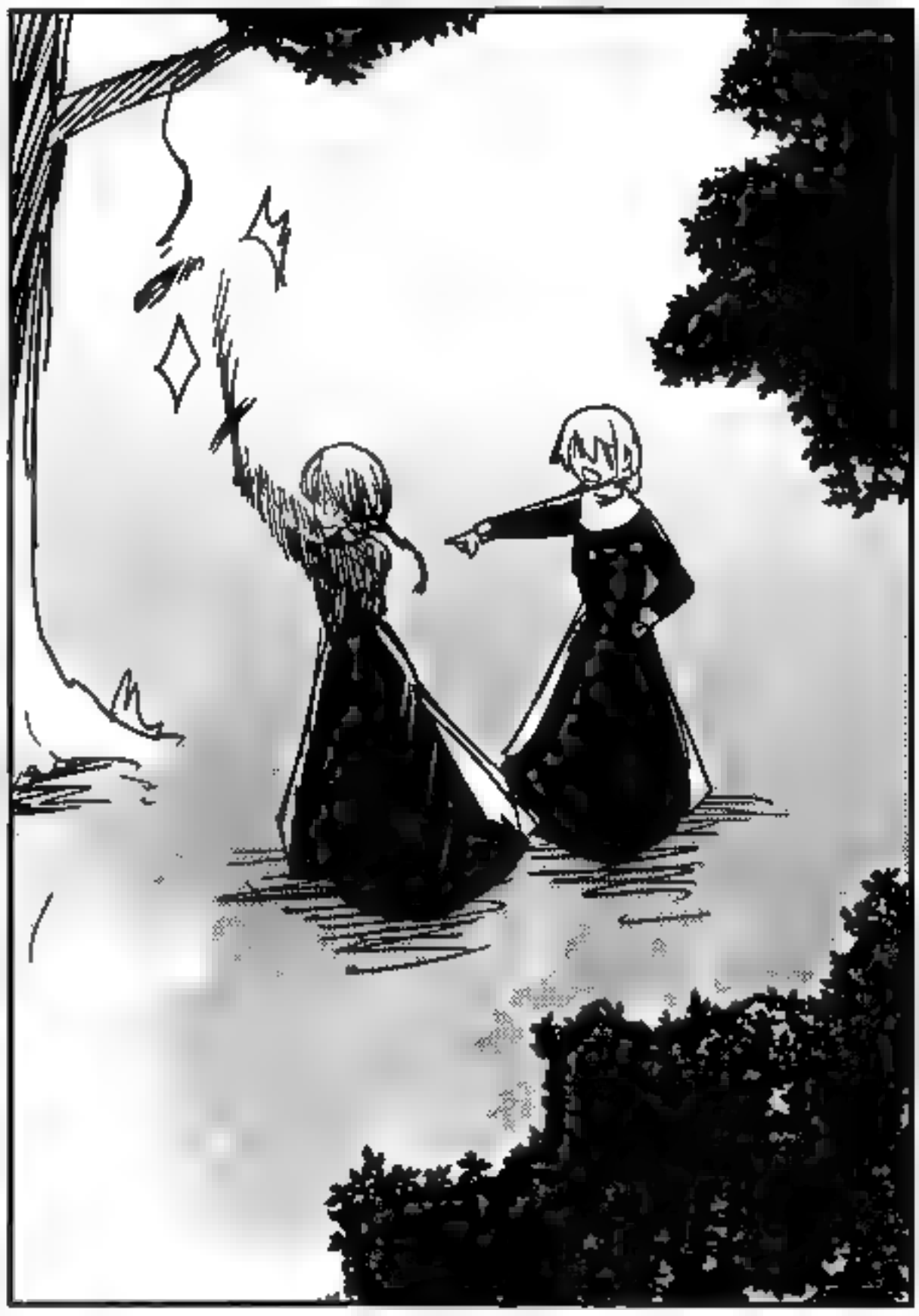
LEGS ...?

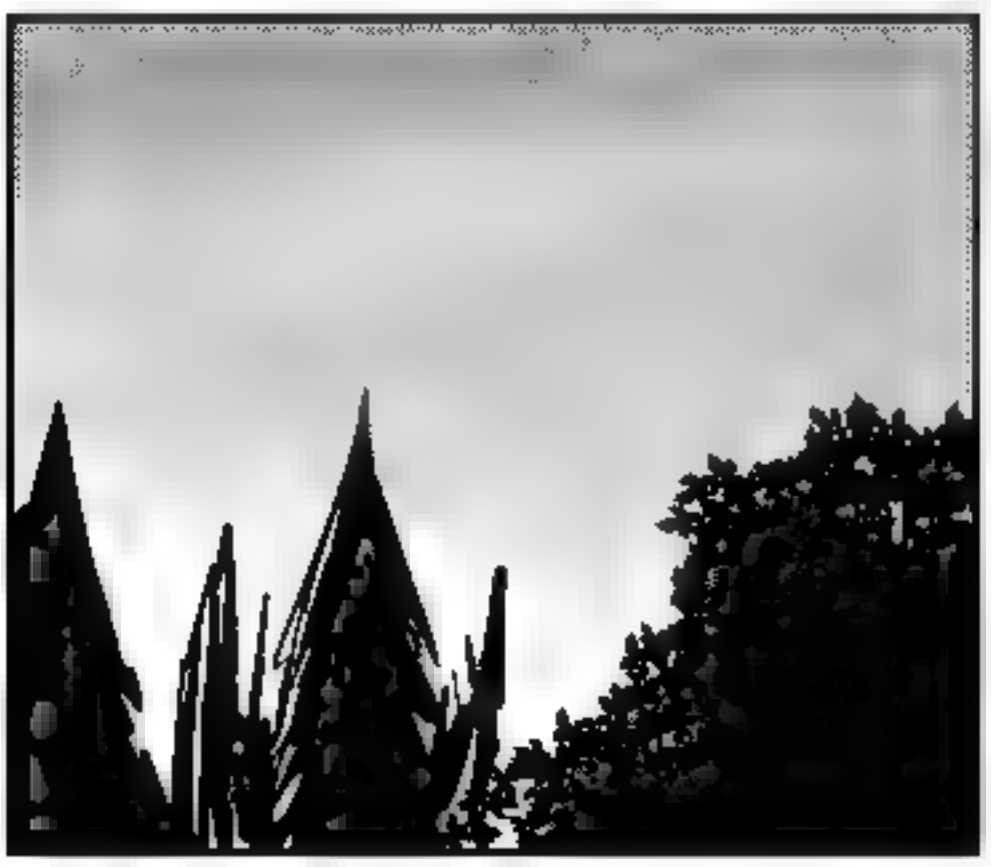
Y... YES.

Look.

Stand up straight.







YOU THOUGHT YOU NEEDED TO, RIGHT?

...LIM

SOMEONE LIKE ME TRYING TO LEARN THE THE SWORD ...

HMM?

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO ASK?

LIM...

...YES.

I CAN WATCH YOU PRACTICE IN THE AFTER-NOON.

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BE SEEN, COME TO THE ABBEY.

TO BE CONTINUED

Maoyuu Maou Yuusha
33

あかね

OH, YEAH.
TODAY'S THE CLAN LEADERS' MEETING.
YEAH.

HEY.
IT'S ABOUT TIME I LEFT.

Demon Lord's Castle

YEAH.

KURULTAI IS PART OF THE INNER DEMON REALM NEAR DEMON LORD'S CASTLE.

Kurultai Conference Site

WHERE'S THE MEETING, AGAIN?

IT CAN'T BE AT KURULTAI.

City of Machines

Giant's Mountain

Gathering there is inconvenient.

Beastman's Field

Humanoid's Valley

Ogre's Prairie

Fairy's Forest

Dragon's Mountain Range

THIS TIME IT'S IN GATEWAY CITY.

Gateway City

Blue Demon's Land

Talking about them again

Enh

IT HAS BEEN A WHILE SINCE I WAS LAST IN GATEWAY CITY.

I WONDER HOW GRAND PRINCESS FIRE DRAGON AND DEMON GIRL ARE DOING.

I SEE.

まおゆう

— 魔王勇者 —

原作 石川あきら
漫画 松山まま机
キャラクター原案 三水小雨之水 [mi8]

LET'S START THE SECOND MEETING.

THE ATMOSPHERE WAS TENSE WHEN THE BLUE DEMON KING'S ARMY RETURNED.

SINCE THEN, IT SEEMS THAT THE SITUATION HAS CALMED DOWN A BIT.

THIS IS THE REPORT FROM FAIRY CLAN.

BLUE DEMON'S ARMY HASN'T HAD ANY MAJOR MOVEMENTS.

BEAST FANG CLAN HAS A SUGGESTION.

HMM...

THE FOLLOW-UP TO THE LAST MEETING,

HOW TO DEAL WITH BLUE DEMON CLAN.

THAT MEANS...

BLUE DEMON'S ARMY ISN'T MAKING ANY MOVES AT THE MOMENT, THEN?

A SUR-RENDER PROPOSAL?

HOW ABOUT A LETTER,

RECOMMEND-ING THAT THEY FORFEIT?

ASSASSINA-TIONS AND SURPRISE ATTACKS DON'T SUIT WARRIORS.

BY HAVING THAT SORT OF ROGUISH ATTITUDE,

BLUE DEMON CLAN CANNOT BE SEEN AS A DIGNIFIED LEADER BY OTHER CLANS.

IF YOU HAVE ANY JUSTIFICATION TO OFFER, THEN COME BEFORE US.

IF YOU WANT TO FIGHT, THEN WE WILL FACE YOU ON THE BATTLEFIELD.

EVERYTHING WILL HAVE TO BE SETTLED ON THE BATTLE-FIELD, IF THAT TIME COMES.

ON TOP OF THAT, IF THEY IGNORE IT OR MAKE EXCUSES,

IT'D BE THE SAME AS THEM SAYING THAT THEY WANT WAR.

BY SENDING THIS LETTER,

WE'RE GIVING THEM A "CHANCE TO EXPLAIN."

"THE CRIMES COMMITTED BY YOUR LEADER AND ARMY WERE SEVERE,

SO THE CLANS HAVE AGREED TO THIS JUDGMENT. THIS WASN'T DONE FOR SELFISH PURPOSES."

IF BLUE DEMON CLAN'S MILITARY FORCES ARE DESTROYED ON THE FIELD,

THEN WHEN WE RETURN TO THE BLUE DEMON'S CAPITAL, WE'LL SAY THIS TO THE CITIZENS,

I WAS TAUGHT BY THE BEAST FANG CLAN'S ELDERS.

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN THOSE GEEZERS ARE HELPFUL.

DUKE, I'M NOW BEGINNING TO SEE YOU IN ANOTHER LIGHT.

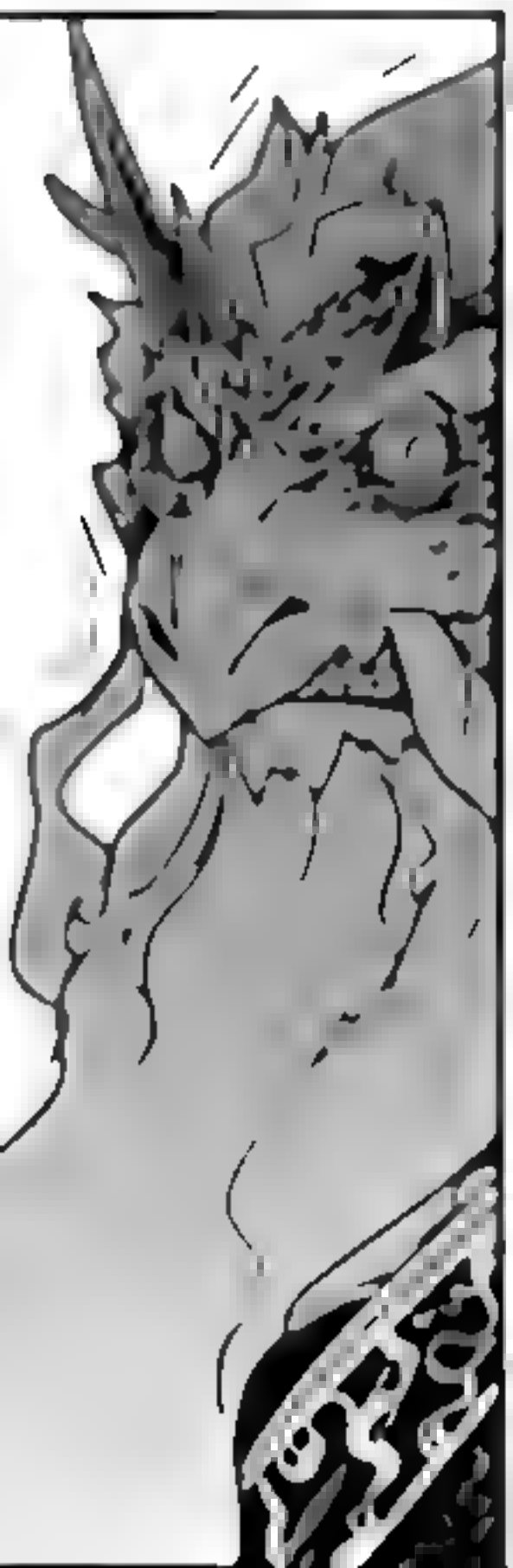
Hmm

I see. .

UNDER-
STOOD
ABOUT THE
TEST...
LET'S LEAVE
IT TO THE
HUMANOID
CLAN LEADER,
TATTOO CHIEF.

WELL
THEN,
LET'S
SEND THAT
LETTER.

NOW ANY
OTHER



NOW,
ALLOW ME
TO INTRODUCE
THE ONE WHO IS
IN CHARGE OF
CONDUCTING
IMPORTANT
MATTERS.

A REQUEST
FROM GATE
GUARDIAN
CLAN.

I HAVE COME AT THE INVITATION OF GATE GUARDIAN CLAN.

I AM GRAND PRINCESS FIRE DRAGON FROM FIRE DRAGON CLAN.

PLEASED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE.

SO, WHAT'S YOUR PRO-POSAL?

IT'S ABOUT FIXING THEM.

WITH THE LONG WAR, THE SO-CALLED ROADS IN THIS WORLD HAVE BEEN DESOLATED.

BRIDGES EVERYWHERE ARE BURNT AND COL-LAPSED, ARE THEY NOT?

LISTEN TO THE ONE THAT'S IN CHARGE ABOUT THAT.

IT WOULD REQUIRE LOTS OF MANPOWER AND FUNDING.

INDEED IT WAS A CONCERN, HOWEVER

ROADS...?

HOW CAN SIMPLY CON-STRUCTING A ROAD BE BENEFICIAL?

YES.

THIS TIME, AT THE REQUEST OF GATEWAY CITY'S LOCAL COUNCIL, WE DID SOME RESEARCHING.

I BELIEVE THAT CONSTRUCTING ROADS WILL BE VERY BENEFICIAL.

IF ANYONE NEEDS SOMETHING, THEY CAN BUY IT FROM A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY.

IF THERE IS A SURPLUS OF GOODS, THESE CAN BE SOLD TO A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY.

IF NEW ROADS ARE BUILT, PEOPLE AND PRODUCTS CAN FLOW.

THE FLOW OF THINGS IS THE FIRST STEP TO BRINGING PROSPERITY.

TAXES, I SEE.

INDEED.

AND IN THE CASE WHERE MERCHANTS PASS BY THE ROADS, TAXES CAN BE COLLECTED FROM THEM.

WE WILL CALL IT THE NINE CLAN PATHWAY.

FURTHERMORE, TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NINE ROADS FROM NOW ON, EIGHTEEN MORE BYROADS WILL NEED TO BE ADDED.

THE CURRENT PLAN IS SHOWN ON THE MAP, HERE. WE PLAN ON MAKING NINE MAIN ROADS.

THIS WILL UTILIZE THE OLD ROADS AND THEIR LENGTH, SO THE CONTRACT CAN BE COMPLETED QUICKLY.

THIS WILL ALSO SERVE AS PREPARATION FOR THE FLOOD-

THAT HAS TROUBLED THIS WORLD

THESE ROADS

FROM AS MUCH STONE PAVEMENT AS POSSIBLE.

AND LEVEL THE

THE IMPORTANCE

PATHWAY LIES IN THE AQUEDUCTS BUILT ALONGSIDE IT TO TRANSPORT WATER.

ON EACH SIDE OF THE ROAD, TREES WILL BE PLANTED AT SPECIFIC

THE ROOTS WILL FORTIFY THE LAND AND PREVENT EROSION.

WE MUST THINK OF A WAY TO MOVE WATER FROM PLACES WITH A SURPLUS, STORE IT SAFELY,

AND THEN MOVE IT TO REGIONS THAT NEED IT.

IN THE DEMON WORLD...IN THE WORLD BELOW GROUND,

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PLACES WITH WATER AND WITHOUT WATER

THAT IS THE REQUEST BEING MADE, THIS TIME.

IT CERTAINLY IS A LARGE UNDERTAKING.

WHERE DO YOU PLAN TO GET ALL THE MANPOWER AND FUNDING?

THE NINE CLAN PATHWAY WILL TAKE NINE YEARS TO BUILD,

AND THE EIGHTEEN BYWAYS WILL TAKE EIGHTEEN YEARS ALL TOGETHER.

WE WILL CREATE THESE IN LARGE AMOUNTS AND HAVE PEOPLE BUY THEM.

A BOND IS LIKE A PAPER NOTE

WITH A NUMBER ON IT THAT MUST BE REGISTERED.

A BOND?

WE'LL MAKE A BOND.

IN SHORT, BEFORE IT'S CONSTRUCTED, TAXES ARE COLLECTED.

YES.

ON THE NEWLY MADE NINE CLAN PATHWAY,

NO TAXES ARE PAID, AND ACCESS IS PERMITTED THIS WAY

A MERCHANT WITH ONE BOND WILL BE ALLOWED TO HAVE ONE CARRIAGE.

THE BOND'S WORTH WILL DEPEND ON THE MERCHANT'S OWN WITS.

IT IS ALSO FINE FOR THOSE THAT DECIDE TO PAY THE TAX LATER.

WE COULD MAKE IT MORE EXPENSIVE.

HOWEVER, IF WE THEN CUT TAXES, IT WOULD DEFEAT THE PURPOSE.

WOULD THE BOND BE EXPENSIVE?

IF PEOPLE OF HIGHER CLASS ARE ACTIVELY BUYING BONDS, IT WILL DEFINITELY GO WELL.

WE WILL EXPLAIN THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ROADS.

COMPARING THE DIFFERENCE IN SEVERITY BETWEEN TAX AND DEBT

WILL PRODUCE ANTIPATHY AMONGST THE PEOPLE

INSTEAD, WE'D LIKE TO GIVE THE MONEY FROM THE BONDS TO THE GIANTS.

IN RETURN, WE WOULD ASK YOU TO USE YOUR STRONG ARMS TO LAY THE ROADS.

.....

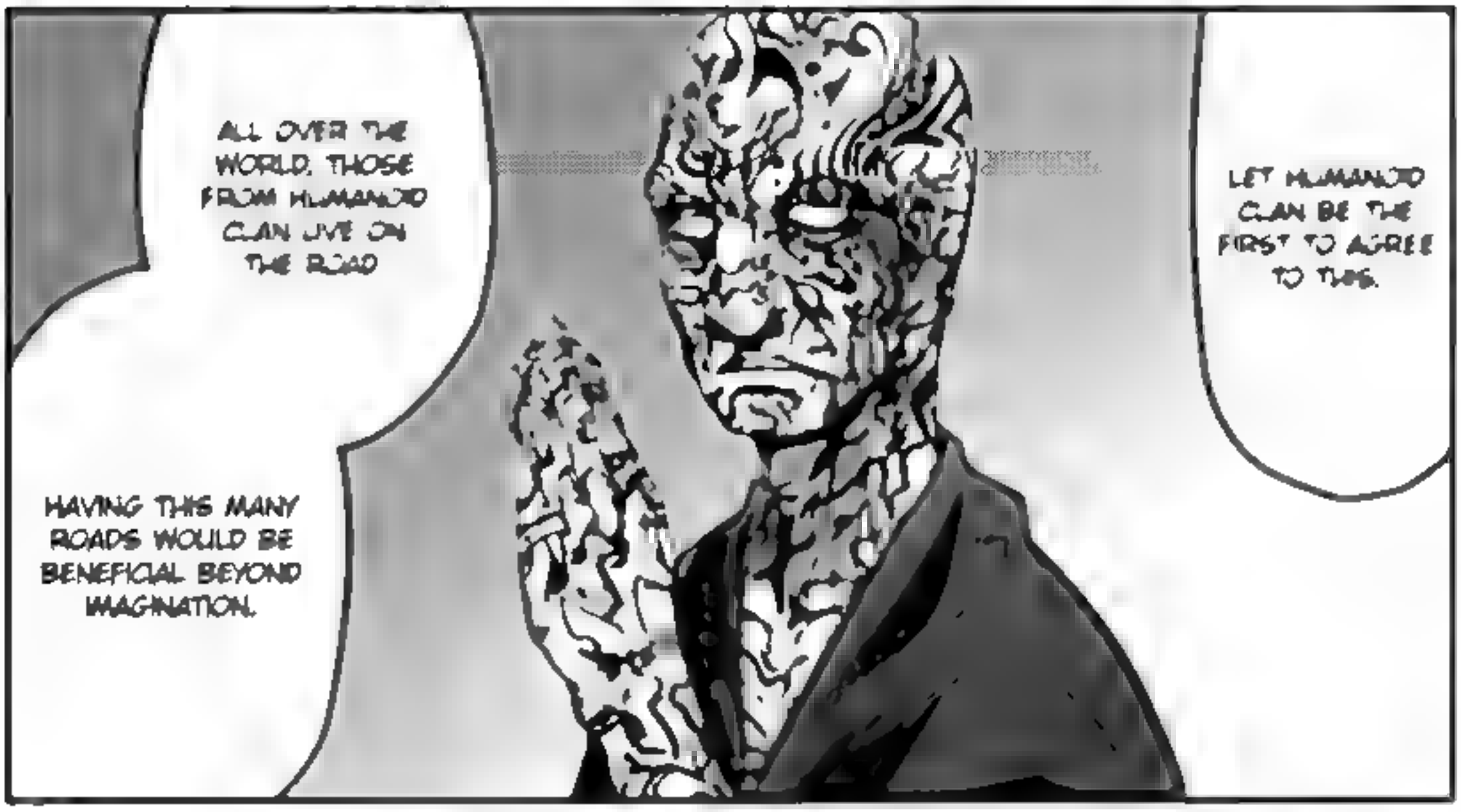
WE

DON'T HAVE

MUCH MONEY

I AM AWARE

DEFI-
NITELY
WILL WATER FLOW TO MY TERRITORY TOO?


ALL OVER THE WORLD, THOSE FROM HUMANOID CLAN LIVE ON THE ROAD
HAVING THIS MANY ROADS WOULD BE BENEFICIAL BEYOND IMAGINATION.
LET HUMANOID CLAN BE THE FIRST TO AGREE TO THIS.

WE WILL ALSO CONSIDER WHAT WE CAN DO.
YOU CAN EXPECT A POSITIVE ANSWER.
INTE-
I CANN
AS SOON AS I
CONSIDER IT.

BUT FOR SUCH A HUGE EVENT,

I SIMPLY CANNOT ANSWER WITHOUT FIRST DISCUSSING IT WITH MY PEOPLE.

I WILL HOLD ON TO MY ANSWER. HAVING IRON BROUGHT IN IS A GOOD THING,

WE...

WILL SUPPORT IT.

LET US LEAVE IT FOR A WHILE,

GIVE THE PEOPLE OF EACH CLAN SOME TIME TO DISCUSS IT, AND THEN WE WILL REASSESS THE PLAN.

WHEN OUR OPINIONS DIFFER, WE DECIDE ON THE MAJORITY.

HOWEVER, THIS TIME THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE A REJECTION.

WITH THAT,

THIS MEETING IS NOW OVER!

TO HAVE YOU COMPLIMENT IT LIKE THAT MAKES ME HAPPY.

THAT'S AN IMPRESSIVE PLAN.

WOW.

I'M VERY SUR-PRISED.

AS LONG AS IT'S SOME-THING THAT I CAN DO, ANY-THING...

HUH.

MAY I ASK YOU FOR A FAVOR,

HERO?

Were sincerely sorry.

Sorry, everything has been disclosed.

HERO?!

How did you know?

カチャ

トン

……

THE PRINCESS WILL BE RETURNING.

ESCORT HER BACK

OKAY

BLACK KNIGHT

..NO, HERO.

UM,

I'LL BRING YOU TO THE TOWN.

THERE IS SOMETHING THAT I WANT TO BE CLEAR ABOUT

I HAVE BEEN DUMPED, HAVEN'T I?

EVERY-ONE...

BUT EVERYONE IS IMPORTANT TO ME.

HERO HAS SOMEONE THAT IS "THE MOST IMPORTANT" TO HIM, RIGHT?

.....

YEAH...

IF YOU WERE IN DANGER...

I WOULD STAY IN FRONT OF YOU AND PROTECT YOU.

IN THAT CASE,

HOW IMPORTANT AM I TO YOU?

MALES ARE NOT AS STRONG AS

TO PROTECT

HERO'S WORDS

MEANING AS A CONFESSION.

...."FEED A STRAY, BUT DON'T KEEP IT AS YOUR OWN."

PLEASE DON'T SAY SUCH THINGS SO EASILY WITHOUT THINKING.

NO MATTER WHAT FATHER SAYS, I DO NOT WANT TO BE SECOND.

EVEN IF HERO PROTECTED ME,

YOU WOULD NOT STAY BY MY SIDE FOREVER, RIGHT?

YOU HAVE NO NEED TO BE SORRY FOR DUMPING ME.

I HAVE BETRAYED YOU TOO.

YOU HAVE NO NEED TO PITY ME.

...HOWEVER, I HAVE ONE REQUEST.

IF THERE IS SOMEONE THAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU, THEN PLEASE CHERISH THEM.

WITH HERO'S STRENGTH,

A HUNDRED, EVEN A THOUSAND GIRLS COULD BE PROTECTED.

HOWEVER,

TO YOU, THAT DOES NOT MEAN THAT YOU ARE TRULY DEVOTED.

DEMON QUEEN WAS STUTTERING THROUGH-OUT HER SPEECH.

IT MUST HAVE BEEN DUE TO HER ANXIETY.

WHAT ARE YOU STILL HESITANT ABOUT?

NO,

I DON'T...

THINK SO.

DID I SAY SOMETHING UNREASON-ABLE?

DEVASTATING THE LAND AND DESTROYING TOWNS

IS ALL THAT I CAN DO.

KILLING DEMONS AND ALSO HUMANS.

BURNING FIELDS.

...I KNEW IT,

I'M QUITE WORTH-LESS.

COWARD

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

...IT FEELS LIKE I CAN'T LET MYSELF BE HAPPY

A PERSON LIKE ME... IS SOME-HOW

WORTHLESS, OR RATHER...

IS BEING POWERFUL REALLY THAT UNPLEASANT?

IS IT SO HORRIBLE TO HAVE A LITTLE BLOOD ON YOUR HANDS?

DOESN'T THE ACT OF PROTECTION ALSO MEAN DEFEATING ENEMIES?

DOES HAVING THE TITLE OF HERO MEAN SO LITTLE?

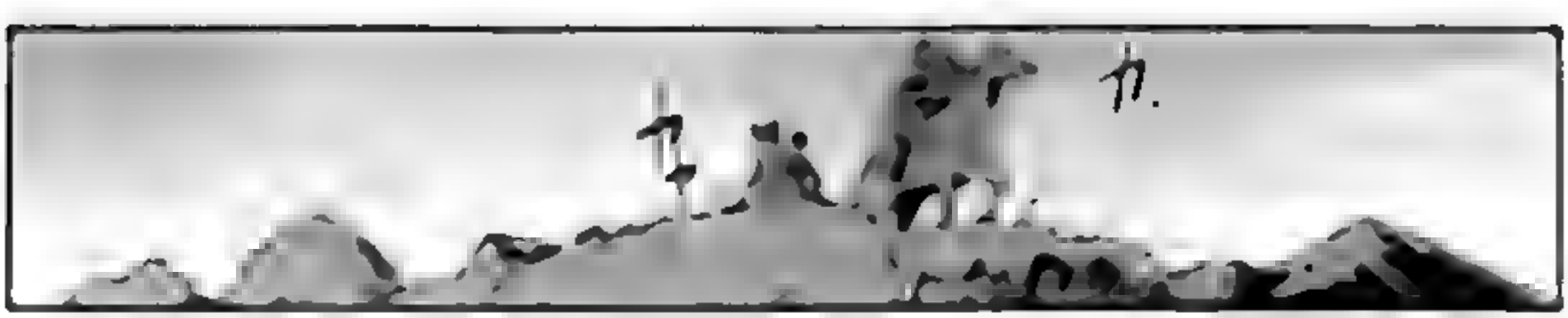
AS ONE WHO WALKED A DIFFERENT PATH, I GIVE TO YOU!

ONE LAST GIFT.

I, WHO FIRST CALLED

HERO OWES ME A HUGE DEBT.
THE ONLY WAY TO REPAY THAT DEBT IS TO BECOME HAPPY YOURSELF.
IS THAT CLEAR?
THIS IS A DEBT YOU OWE ME.

PLEASE DO NOT FORGET.



THAT IS RIGHT. THERE IS VERY LITTLE TRAINING.

IN JUST A FEW MONTHS, SUCH A

THAT IS THE ONLY GOOD THING ABOUT IT ALL, WHICH IS ALSO THE KEY TO CHANGING EVERY-THING

A MUSKET IS A TOOL THAT CAN CHEAPLY AND EFFICIENTLY PRODUCE "SOLDIERS".

AN ESSENTIAL RESOURCE IN WAR.

THIS IS BECAUSE AN INFINITE SUPPLY OF FARMERS CAN BE SENT TO FIGHT.

AS LONG AS THERE HAS BEEN ENOUGH TRAINING WITH THE MUSKET THE BATTLE-FIELD CAN BE CHANGED COMPLETELY

GET READY TO FIRE!

ADDITIONALLY, ONCE A MUSKET IS FIRED ON THE BATTLEFIELD,

IT TAKES A WHILE TO RELOAD IT, WHICH IS A PROBLEM.

UTILIZING A LARGE AMOUNT OF PEOPLE IS ADVANTAGEOUS, BUT IT ALSO CREATES PROBLEMS,

AS FOOD AND AMMUNITION ARE CONSUMED FASTER.

HOWEVER, THERE ARE MANY FLAWS, TOO.

KAISEI, THE KING OF FOG NATION, IS BURNING WITH PASSION FOR REVENGE AFTER THE SUPPRESSION BATTLE IN THE NORTH.

AFTER SOME ENCOURAGING, SOMETHING WILL BE BOUND TO HAPPEN.

IF THERE IS A COMMANDING OFFICER IN THE FRONT LINES THAT CAN SOLVE THIS PROBLEM,

THEN THE MUSKET ARMY CORPS WILL BE THE STRONGEST MILITARY FORCE ON LAND WITHOUT A DOUBT.

IF ANYTHING HAPPENS AFTER SENDING HIM TO THE FRONT LINE, I'LL HAVE TO THINK ABOUT TAKING THE LEAD MYSELF.

I KNOW.

I'M JUST SKIMMING.

DEMON QUEEN,

DON'T FORCE YOUR-SELF...

THE RECORDS OF THE CLAN MEETING AND THE NINE CLAN PATHWAY PLAN?

Could it be

THEY'RE OVER HERE...

WHERE'D IT GO...

?

ERM...

THAT, THAT.

THAT'S IT, THAT'S IT!

There's

FUFUFU

UMM...

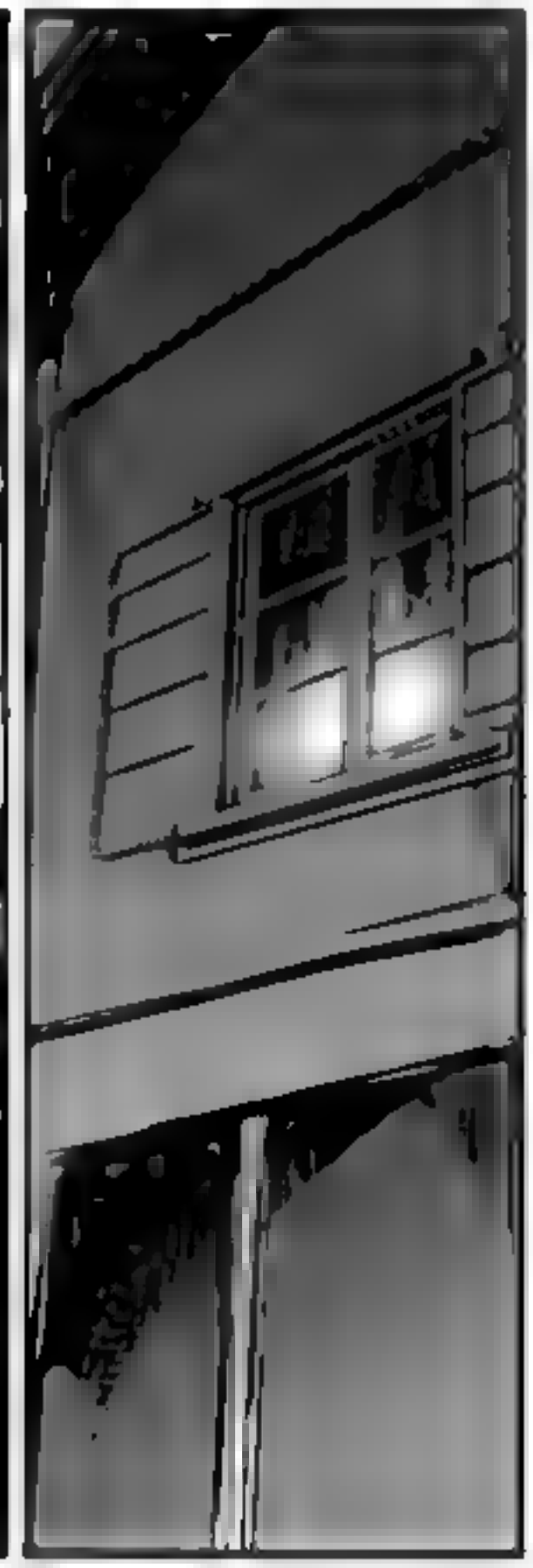
Even when I'm not there, the demon clans seem to do well

ｐａ…

...NO.
UMM, I'LL BRING SOME TEA.
ｐａｐａ

IS SOME-THING WRONG?

ｐｕｐｕ…
ｏｔｏｓ ｉｎａｉ



AH...

SORRY.

YOU ARE GOING TO BREAK YOUR BODY, YOU KNOW THAT?

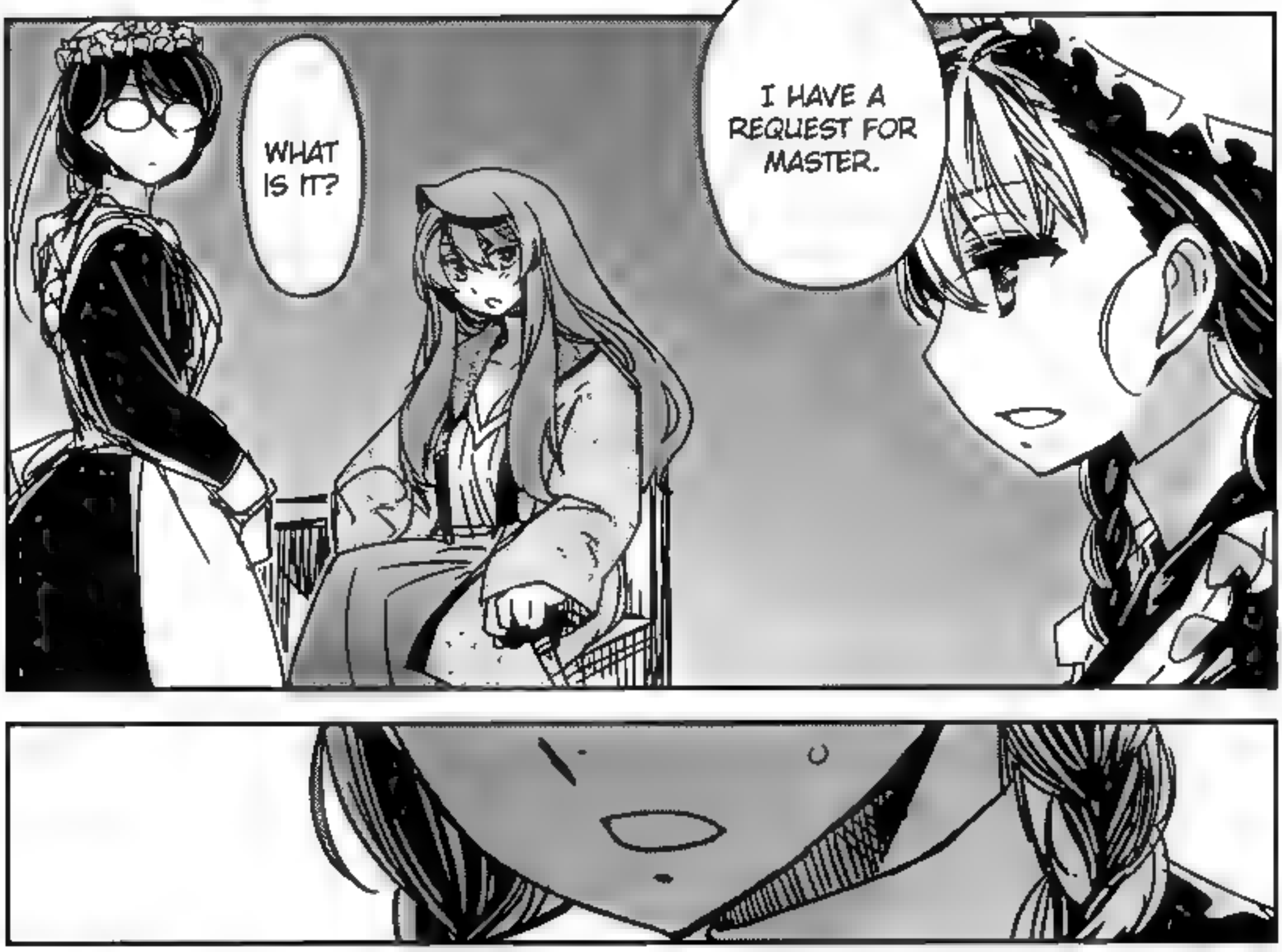
YOU'RE WORKING TOO HARD.

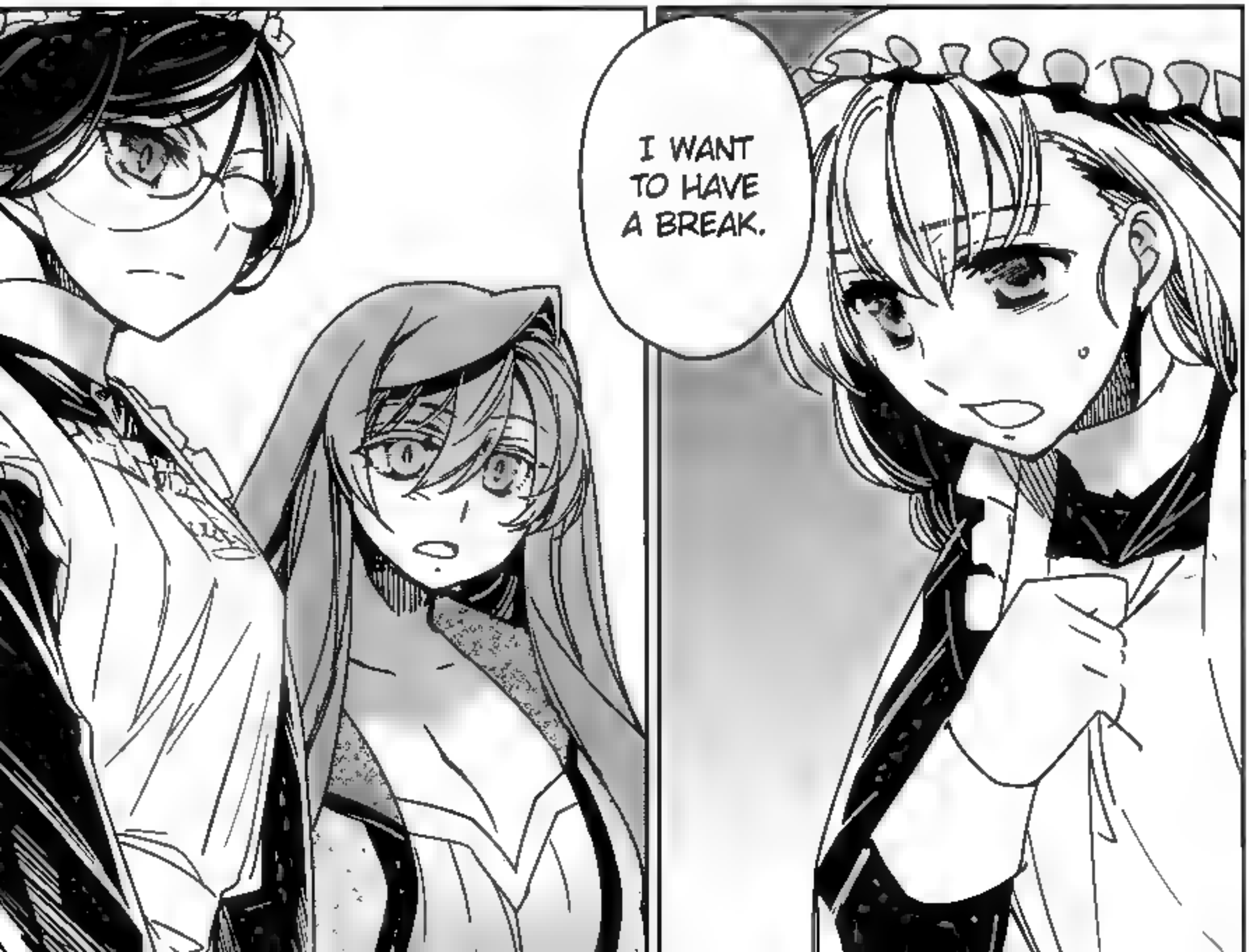
...MASTER.

I'M NOT ANXIOUS.

NO...

WHAT IS IT THAT YOU ARE SO ANXIOUS ABOUT?


WHAT IS IT?
I HAVE A REQUEST FOR MASTER.


I WANT TO HAVE A BREAK.

I DON'T KNOW.

ANYWHERE BUT HERE.

WHERE WILL YOU BE GOING?

I'VE SPOKEN TO HER ALREADY.

SHE HAS A DREAM TO FULFILL HERE.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR SISTER?

AS SOMEONE THAT WAS SAVED BY MASTER AND HEAD MAID,

I AM TRULY SORRY.

...SORRY FOR ASKING SOMETHING SO SELFISH.

NO...
NO.
THAT COULD NEVER BE.
YOU'RE NOT LEAVING BECAUSE YOU DISLIKE BEING HERE, ARE YOU?

YES, DEFINITELY...
I WILL DEFINITELY RETURN.
...THIS WILL BE TEMPORARY, WON'T IT?

...IT'S THE PLACE THAT I CHERISH THE MOST.

I'VE FOUND THAT THIS HOUSE HAS BEEN THE WARMEST AND KINDEST I'VE EVER KNOWN.

BUT IF I DON'T,

I WON'T BE ABLE TO FORGIVE MYSELF.

I HONESTLY DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE,

I MADE MANY PEOPLE ...BURDENED BY ALL THE RESPONSIBILITY.

I...

I THINK THAT IF I STOP MOVING FORWARD, IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY INSINCERE OF ME.

EVER SINCE YELLING ALOUD THAT DAY IN THE SQUARE,

AS A PERSON WHO HAS "SPOKEN OUT",

THERE IS SOMETHING THAT I MUST DO.

I HAVE FINISHED ORGANIZING THE ACCOUNT RECORDS IN THESE TWO YEARS.

THE TABLE OF CONTENTS IS PILED ON THIS SMALL SHELF.

...EVEN SO,

I WOULD LIKE TO CHOOSE THIS.

THERE IS NOTHING THAT YOU HAVE TO BURDEN YOURSELF WITH.

CONSIDERING OTHERS WILL CONTINUE,

I HAVE PLACED THE MEMOS HERE TO MAKE FUTURE WORK EASIER.

...WHAT WILL IT BE?

I WILL DEFINITELY FIND SOMETHING AND RETURN.

NOT LEARNED FROM SOMEONE ELSE.

IT HAS TO BE SOMETHING I FIND OUT BY MYSELF.

PRO-BABLY

...WHAT IT MEANS TO FIGHT.

I BELIEVE THAT EVERYTHING THAT HEAD MAID HAS TAUGHT ME MAKES ME MORE THAN A MAID.

IN THE END, I MAY NOT HAVE BECOME A MAID.

FEMALE KNIGHT,

AND THE YOUNG-STERS...

THE THINGS THAT I HAVE LEARNED FROM EVERYONE ARE ALL MORE PRECIOUS THAN GOLD.

MASTER,

HERO,

THEN GO.

AREN'T YOU GOING TO FIND YOUR DESTINY?

YOUR WINGS HAVE THAT POWER.

YES.

I WILL NEVER FORGET YOUR KINDNESS AND HOSPITALITY.

YOU'LL TAKE OUR TEACHINGS WHEREVER YOU GO, RIGHT?

AT DAWN.

WHEN WILL YOU BE LEAVING?

HAVE SOME REST.

YES.

PLEASE EXCUSE ME

um...

I LOVE YOU BOTH VERY MUCH.

NO.
YOU'VE LET GO.

NO MATTER WHERE SHE GOES OR WHAT SHE DOES.
IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT SHE IS MY PRIDE AND JOY.

MOVING FORWARD, LOOKING UP AT THE SKY... WHAT WAS THAT?

TO BE CONTINUED

34

THE PLEASANT SERIAL KILLERS!

YOUR STRANGE BEHAVOIR ENDS HERE!

YOU TWO AGAIN?!

IT'S NOT A CRIME!

All I did was shoot acid as an ant man! I have nothing to feel guilty about!

A YOUNG GIRL IS BEING COVERED IN STRANGE FLUIDS

BY A SKETCHY MAN IN TIGHTS! THIS IS A CRIME!

NOOO!

I'M BEING HARASSED BY A PERVERT~

NANAKO!

AAH!

Eh? Did I overdo it?

THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE PAIR IS SHRINKING WAIT; WHICH PAIR?!

魔王城でおやすみ

著：白石あきら

イラスト：招乃ままれ

キャラクター原案：水上凪之永：Colle

THIS IS ABSURD!

WHY IS THERE SUCH AN EMBARASSING DOKI DOKI SCENE!

I'M GOING TO COMPLAIN TO THE AUTHOR!

AREN'T THE PROTAGONISTS JUST FRIENDS?!

AHA AHGH!

COMPLAIN!

EVEN IF IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE JUST AN ACCIDENT...

THEIR LIPS... THEIR LIPS...

am cam

you sure are

GET TO EXPERIENCE SUCH ACCIDENTS?!

SO WHY DO THESE KIDS HAVE SUCH GOOD LUCK

THERE ARE SO MANY OTHER OLDER, MORE MATURE COUPLES IN THE WORLD,

CALM DOWN, WILL YA?

BY THE WAY

IT'S FINE

Female knight already apologized

ARE YOU OKAY...

WITH FEMALE KNIGHT'S OATH

WE HAVE TO REST EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE
RIGHT?
IS IT OKAY TO BE SO LAID BACK RIGHT NOW?

... THINGS ARE GONNA GET BUSY SOON ENOUGH.

I SEE.

IT'S NOT LIKE THE PROBLEMS ON THE SURFACE OR UNDERGROUND HAVE BEEN RESOLVED.

THEY'VE JUST BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL LATER.

ON THE [illegible] THE WAR WITH [illegible] CENTER WAS MERELY DELAYED BY THE SNOW

WE DON'T KNOW WHEN THEY'LL CHOOSE TO INVADE THE SOUTH AGAIN.

UNDERGROUND, WAR WITH THE BLUE DEMON CLAN IS BOUND TO HAPPEN.

THE EMBERS OF WAR ARE STILL BURNING.

YEAH.

HE'S THE ONE PERSON I REALLY HAVE TO FIGHT.

IN PARTICULAR, BLUE DEMON'S SEAL KING...

THOUGH, I'M GLAD I CAN BE LAID BACK LIKE THIS, IF ONLY FOR JUST A LITTLE BIT.

IT WOULD BE NICE IF IT COULD JUST STAY LIKE THIS...

HOLY KINGSLAND· SECRET IRON WORKS

AT THIS PACE, WE CAN PRODUCE TWO PIECES A MONTH

THE PRODUCTION OF "THAT" SEEMS TO HAVE STABILIZED.

I THINK WE CAN REACH 800 MUSKETS THIS MONTH.

THAT WILL BRING THE TOTAL TO 5000 MUSKETS

HOW ABOUT THE MASS PRODUCTION OF THE MUSKET?

PRODUCING MUSKETS DEMANDS GREAT PRECISION, SO IT REQUIRES HIGHLY SKILLED WORKERS

IT'S A MATTER OF SKILL

TOO SLOW

CAN YOU INCREASE PRODUCTION SPEED?

WE'VE ARRANGED FOR MORE, BUT WE CAN'T SCALE PRODUCTION MUCH HIGHER WHILE KEEPING PRODUCTION SECRET.

TOO FEW, HUH?

THE IRONWORKER'S GUILD IS GIVING IT THEIR ALL, BUT THERE ARE ONLY SO MANY SKILLED WORKERS

EXCUSE ME, YOUR MAJESTY

Y-

YES!

FIGURE OUT HOW TO INCREASE PRODUCTION THROUGH EFFICIENCY.

THAT'S THE JOB OF A FOREMAN, YES?

WE COULD SET IT UP SO THAT ONE PERSON WILL PRODUCE ONE SET OF PARTS

AND ANOTHER PERSON, A DIFFERENT SET OF PARTS. HOW DOES THAT SOUND?

CURRENTLY, WORKERS PRODUCE EACH MUSKET INVIDUALLY, ONE AFTER ANOTHER.

THESE WEAPONS ARE PRODUCED FROM A VARIETY OF PARTS

BUT SKILLED WORKERS AREN'T NECESSARY FOR EVERY SINGLE PART

...!

LIKE THAT, THE AMOUNT OF TRAINING THAT EACH WORKER NEEDS WOULD DECREASE.

FOR EVERYTHING ELSE, WE CAN HAVE THE INTERMEDIATE WORKERS ASSIST NEW WORKERS,

SPEEDING UP THE TRAINING OF NEW WORKERS.

FOR THE MORE COMPLEX PARTS, SKILLED WORKERS CAN WORK ON THOSE

APPRENTICES LEARN BY OBSERVING THEIR MASTER'S WORK.

THE GUILD HAS ITS OWN WAY OF DOING THINGS

SHUT IT, GREENHORN!

MORE-OVER-

UGH

THA..

THAT'S TRUE BUT...

DO YOU THINK THEY'LL BUILD UP ANY SKILL JUST BY WORKING ON A FEW PARTS?

HIS IDEAS FAVOR EFFICIENCY, NOT SKILL.

I UNDERSTAND SKILLED WORKERS ARE IMPORTANT TO THE GUILD, BUT WE NEED EVERY SINGLE MUSKET.

THAT'S ENOUGH.

YOU'RE JUST A-

I MUST BE GOING NOW.

LET'S TALK MORE THE NEXT TIME WE MEET.

I-

IT WOULD BE MY HONOR!

I SWEAR ON MY LIFE!

I HAVE GREAT EXPECATIONS FROM YOUTHS LIKE YOU.

WORK HARD, AND HELP THE FOREMAN REFORM THE PRODUCTION PROCESS.

UNDER -STOOD.

GET RID OF THE FOREMAN AS SOON AS YOU CAN.

PRODUCTION SHOULD SPEED UP GREATLY WITH THAT YOUNG MAN IN CHARGE.

?

OUT WITH IT.

MANY LORDS AND LANDOWNERS HAVE BEEN SENDING IN PETITIONS

IT'S ABOUT...

PRINCE MARSHAL

WHAT?

THE CHURCH?

HOW DARE THEY ACT WITHOUT PERMISSION IN MY TERRITORY!

STOP THEM!

SOLDIERS FROM THE CHURCH HAVE APPEARED OUTSIDE THE CASTLE AND IN OUR TERRITORY'S VILLAGES.

THEY'RE SEIZING ALL OF THE WHEAT AS IT'S BEING HARVESTED

Tsk

THE "WHEAT HANDOVER BOND"..

BUT,

THEY'RE CARRYING THAT BOND...

WE WON'T BE ABLE TO REFUSE OR DISSUADE THEM

WHY IS THAT IN THE HANDS OF THE HOLY CHURCH!?

CONSPIRING WITH THAT MERCHANT TO WEAKEN MY POWER AS LORD OF THIS REGION...

DAMNED CHURCH SET "THAT'S HOW IT IS"

I HAVE MONEY!

NEGOTIATE WITH THE CHURCH AND BUY BACK THAT WHEAT HANDOVER BOND NOW!

WHAT SHALL WE DO, MY LORD?

MY FAMILY, THE BARONS OF THIS LAND, HAVE BEEN IN COMPLETE CONTROL OVER EIGHT GENERATIONS.

WHY SHOULD MY PROUD PEOPLE HAVE TO LOWER THEIR HEADS BEFORE THE CHURCH!?

TO HUMILIATE ME...

DAMN THE CHURCH

AND THAT MERCHANT BRAT!

YES.

TO CENTRAL'S HOLY CHURCH.

YOU SOLD ALL OF THE WHEAT HANDOVER BONDS?

WHY TO THE CHURCH?

I GUESS YOU COULD SAY IT WAS TIME TO PULL OUT.

THAT BOND IS A POWERFUL WEAPON,

BUT ONLY IF THEY RESPECTED THE COLLECTION OF THE BOND

HOWEVER, THE CHURCH HAS THE BACKING OF THE LARGEST NATION IN CENTRAL, HOLY KINGSLAND

IF THE FEUDAL LORDS, WHO POSSESS KNIGHTS AND ARMIES, DECIDED TO IGNORE THE BOND

THEN UNION, WHICH DOESN'T CARRY WEAPONS, WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO ENFORCE IT.

THEY'RE AN OPPONENT THE NOBLES WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO CHEAT.

BUT THE BIGGEST FACTOR WAS THE SHIFT FROM THE OLD CURRENCY TO THE NEW CURRENCY.

AND NOW, BY SELLING THE WHEAT HANDOVER BOND

WE'VE OBTAINED LARGE AMOUNTS OF THE NEW CURRENCY

UP UNTIL THE CURRENCY CHANGE, ESSENTIALLY ALL OF UNION'S ASSETS

WERE STORED MATERIAL GOODS LIKE WHEAT, OR THE WHEAT HANDOVER BOND

BY HOW MUCH?

WITH THE NEW CURRENCY WE OBTAINED, UNION'S ASSETS HAVE RETURNED TO THE PRE-CURRENCY EXCHANGE LEVELS.

OR RATHER, THEY'VE INCREASED.

BUT THE REAL TREASURE FROM ALL OF THIS PROFIT ISN'T MONEY.

MONEY IS JUST ANOTHER TOOL, AFTER ALL.

THAT'S A HUGE PROFIT!

ABOUT WHAT UNION MANAGES TO AMASS IN FOUR YEARS.

CENTRAL AND [illegible] SOLUTIONS WERE NOT GOING TO BE CONTROLLED BY MILITARY, BUT BY ECONOMY AS WELL.

THROUGH THESE DEALS, UNION HAS MADE CONNECTIONS WITH BOTH SIDES.

HA-TU

A JAPANESE NAME!

WE'VE OPENED TRADE WITH THE DEMO- NO, THE WORLD BELOW

I THINK THEY RECIEVED IT WELL ENOUGH

BY THE WAY HOW DID THE POLITICAL FIGHT FOR A HIGHWAY SYSTEM AT THE CLAN MEETING GO?

IF THIS PLAN DOESN'T GO THROUGH, THEN TRADE AMONG OTHER THINGS WILL BE STALLED.

THE WORLD BELOW DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH INFRASTRUCTURE TO FACILITATE TRADE.

MOREVER, THE PEOPLE DON'T HAVE A SURPLUS OF CURRENCY TO EXCHANGE.

WE'RE STARTING WITH RULES THAN ANALOGUES

FOR THIS, IT'S GOING TO BE DONE IN A FAIRLY ROUNDABOUT MANNER

MORE-OVER.

IT'S DIFFICULT TO CREATE A SURPLUS OF CURRENCY

SO LONG AS THE PEOPLE BARTER ONLY THERE IS NO NEED FOR CURRENCY

THE MAIN FORM OF EXCHANGE IN THE WORLD BELOW IS BARTER

"I'LL PAY YOU BACK THIS MUCH LATER, SO GIVE ME THIS MUCH MONEY"

IT'S A SIGNED AGREEMENT TO THAT EFFECT.

BONDS ARE JUST ONE METHOD OF CREATING DEBT

FOR THIS KIND PLAN TO ISSUE BONDS?

AND THEY WILL HAVE IN THEIRS A NOTE PROMISING "100 GOLD COINS IN THE FUTURE".

PUT TOGETHER, THEY HAVE THE VALLIE OF 200 GOLD GOINS; WE'VE ARTIFICIALLY CREATED CURRENCY WITH THESE BONDS.

LET'S SAY I CREATE BONDS SAYING "I'LL RETURN YOU 100 GOLD COINS, SO LEND ME 100 GOLD COINS"

WHEN THE BONDS ARE SOLD, I WILL HAVE IN MY HANDS 100 GOLD COINS

THIS IS THE REAL PURPOSE OF LENDING MONEY.

LENDING MONEY TAKES TRUST IN ANOTHER PERSON AND TURNS IT INTO CURRENCY.

It'd be good if I can turn those 100 coins into 150 before I return it too.

WHEN, PEOPLE HAVE A LOT OF MONEY, THEN THE CHANCES OF TRADE GO UP

AND WITHOUT ANY, THERE CAN'T BE ANY TRADE.

SO WE'VE HAD TO USE SUCH ROUNDABOUT METHODS AND GET GATEWAY CITY TO HELP

IN ORDER TO CREATE THAT SURPLUS CURRENCY

THERE AREN'T ANY ESTABLISHMENTS LIKE BANKS IN THE DEMON WORLD

PLEASE DON'T GLARE AT ME LIKE THAT

I DON'T INTEND TO HARM ANYONE WITH MY PLAN.

NOT THIS CITY, THE DEMONS NOR THE DEMON WORLD.

UNION ISN'T THE SORT OF ORGANIZATION THAT FLOURISHES FROM SOMEONE'S LOSSES.

IT WAS NEVER ABOUT WINNING OR LOSING.

... THEN

IS THIS CORRECT?

SIR MERCHANT WISHES TO USE MY POSITION AS THE DAUGHTER OF ARCHDUKE FIREDRAGON, THE CHIEF OF DRAGON CLAN,

AND AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF GATEWAY CITY, IN ORDER TO CONVERT TRUST INTO CURRENCY.

RIGHT?

People called merchants are those who think fondly of the latter"

"Money as wealth and money as a tool are two very different things.

SIR MERCHANT HAS SAID

AS WHOM YOU ARE BORROWING TRUST FROM.

HOW MUCH WILL YOU GAIN FROM MY TRUST

I WANT YOU TO SHOW ME JUST EXACTLY HOW MUCH YOU WILL ACCOMPLISH,

YES

THOSE ARE MY WORDS.

SIR MER
-CHANT.

I WOULD ABANDON YOU.

IF I WERE SNATCHED AWAY BY A FEARSOME ENEMY

NEVER AGAIN TO SEE THE LIGHT OF DAY

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

THAT WAS JUST A JOKE.

……

NOTHING.

WHAT WOULD I BE REWARDED WITH?

POSSIBLY

IS THIS A TRICK QUESTION?

THEN I WOULD HELP YOU FOR THE REWARD OF "NO REWARD".

EH?

YOU'RE QUICK -WITTED AND A FAST LEARNER

AND ABOVE ALL, YOU ARE CALM AND FAIR.

AS A BUSINESS PARTNER, YOU LACK NOTHING.

A MERCHANT DOES NOTHING WITHOUT COMP-ENSATION.

HOW -EVER,

A MERCHANT'S BATTLE NEVER ENDS, RIGHT?

EQUAL BUSINESS PARTNERS...

FOR LIFE?

HRRR

KNOCK KNOCK

YES?

IT SURE IS RAINING HARD

YOU DON'T SEE THIS KIND OF WEATHER DOWN BELOW

AND WE'LL REDUCE YOUR INN FEES.

WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH ROOMS FOR EVERYONE STUCK BECAUSE OF THE RAIN.

OF COURSE, YOU'LL BE SHARING WITH ANOTHER WOMAN

SHARING A ROOM?

MISS, THIS WAY PLEASE

THAT HELPS A LOT!

DON'T WORRY, IT'S FINE.

Slip

NOT AT ALL

WE'RE IN THE SAME BOAT AFTER ALL

Come on in~

PARDON THE INTRUSION

NICE TO MEET YOU.

PLEASE TAKE GOOD CARE OF ME.

I'M A TRAVELLING MINSTREL AS YOU CAN SEE.

NICE TO MEET YOU TOO.

SO I WENT TRAVELLING, BUT IT'S TERRIBLE EVERYWHERE YOU GO

I FELT LIKE THERE WERE THINGS I NEEDED TO SEE

WOW!

TRAVELLING ACROSS THE NATIONS AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE!

.....

THAT'S RIGHT...

IT'S PAINFUL JUST TO EVEN LOOK AT THEM

THAT'S RIGHT.

THE COSTS OF LIVING ARE SO HIGH THAT PEOPLE ARE DYING OUT ON THE STREETS

MY HOMELAND WAS IN A STATE OF WAR

SO I'M NOT REALLY USED TO SEEING PEOPLE STARVE...

AH...

WELL...

WHERE ARE YOU FROM, MINSTREL?

I SEE.

WELL, SOME PLACE REALLY FAR AWAY.

あはは…

WHERE ARE YOU HEADED, ANYWAYS?

RIGHT NOW, THE CAPITAL OF LAKE NATION.

THERE'S AN ARCHIVE THERE THAT USED TO BE RUN BY THE LAKE SHORE ORDER

IS IT AN ARCHIVE ON THE HOLY SPIRIT OF LIGHT?

YES, IT IS.

I'M TOLD ALL OF THE RECORDS BELONGING TO THE ORDER ARE STORED THERE.

THEN...

IS IT ALRIGHT IF I COME ALONG TOO?

?

AND WELL,

THE "HOLY RELIC" HAS CAUGHT MY INTEREST, AND SO I'VE BEEN TRAVELLING TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT IT.

I WRITE POEMS AND LITERATURE

AND PLAY ALL SORTS OF INSTRUMENTS

EVEN SCRIPTS FOR PLAYS

BECAUSE THEY'RE ALL CLOSELY RELATED

IT'S LIKE INSPIRATION IS CHASING AFTER ME

BUT IT'S LIKE IT'S NOT QUITE THERE YET.

I DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND IT MYSELF

IT'S FINE TO COME WITH ME.

EH?

WE...

I'M PROBABLY BOTHERING YOU, TELLING YOU ALL THIS

IT'S FINE.

YOU SHOULDN'T BELIEVE OTHER PEOPLE SO EASILY.

I MEAN, WHAT IF YOU GET CAUGHT UP IN SOME ACCIDENT?

EVEN IF I SAY I'M JUST ANOTHER TRAVELLER

IS IT...

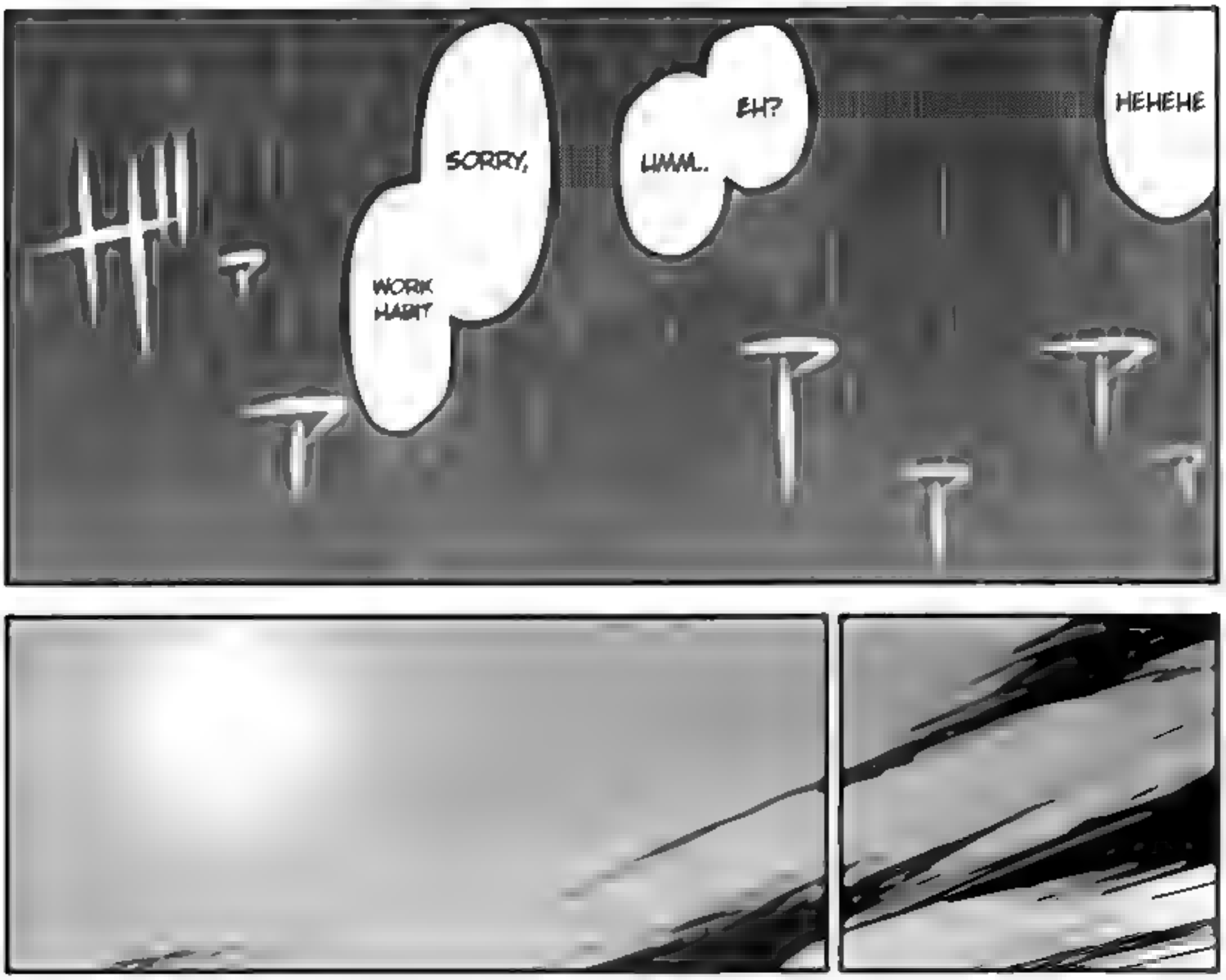
REALLY OKAY?

THAT'S TRUE

THAT'S A REALLY NICE WAY OF PUTTING IT

I think I'll write it down

PEOPLE HAVE BEEN CAUGHT UP IN THIS WORLD FROM THE MOMENT THEY WERE BORN.


HEHEHE
EH?
UMM..
SORRY,
WORK HABIT
?

... THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN THIS FAR AWAY FROM HOME.
IT'S FINALLY CLEARED UP
YEAH.
LET'S GET GOING
YUP

I wonder if he's doing well in the world below, building that bridge of his...

My home, the Demon World

HUMANOID CAPITAL

URGENT NEWS!

NEWS!

WHAT IS IT?

CHIEF!

TATTOO CHIEF!

!

THE BLUE DEMONS HAVE BEGUN TO MOVE!

IT'S NOT THE ENITRE CLAN BUT,

ALL OF THEIR WARRIORS AND IMPORTANT FAMILIES HAVE BEGUN MARCHING

THEY ARE ABOUT 25,000 IN NUMBER!

Maybe Ogre's..?

No,

They came from here

Beast Fangs?

WHERE ARE THEY HEADED?

WHICH CLAN'S TERRITORY ARE THEY AIMING FOR?

...

...

NO, THEY'RE NOT HEADED FOR ANY CLAN'S TERRITORY

GATEWAY CITY

THE BLUE DEMONS ARE HEADED FOR THE RUINS OF THE GATE!

THE PASSAGE KNOWN AS THE GREAT HOLLOW

AND THE GREAT HOLLOW LEADS TO THE SURFACE!

THEIR OBJECTIVE MUST BE THE HUMAN WORLD

HEY YOU GUYS ALRIGHT?

AHH, THAT HURTS...

AHEM

BUT THE FACT THAT NONE OF THE WORKERS GOT HURT IS GOOD ENOUGH,

ALL THANKS TO THIS LITTLE FAIRY GIVING US A HEAD'S UP

SO MANY TROOPS FORCING THEIR WAY ACROSS A HALF-FINISHED BRIDGE...

AHAH AHA

BUT NOW I'M HUNGRY~

Grumble grumble

YEP

THANKS A BUNCH

I WORKED SUUUUPER HARD!

I-flew lots!

LEND A HAND TO ANYONE WHO'S INJURED

ALRIGHT

EVERYONE, LET'S GET OUTTA HERE AND GRAB SOME FOOD

The Blue Demons are headed to the surface where you are

Be safe and be well, Young Musician

Because I'm also doing my best

GUH...

WHO'D OF THOUGHT THE DEMONS WOULD COME AFTER US IN WHITE NIGHT NATION'S CAPITAL

WE WILL NEVER LET THIS CASTLE FALL!

BUT WE ARE WHITE NIGHT'S MAGE DIVISION, THE GREATEST IN THE SOUTHERN NATIONS!

UNDERSTOOD!

MAGIC TROOPS!

SHOW THOSE SCUM THE DIFFERENCE IN OUR STANDING

HMPH

LOWLY HUMANS AND THEIR USELESS RESISTANCE

LET ME.

SEAL KING

YOU DON'T NEED TO DIRTY YOUR HANDS-

NO

THIS WILL BE GOOD REHABILITATION.

WHAT...

WHAT POWER...

THE DEMON... LORD..?

DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?!

Y-

YOU LOUTS!

GAA AAAA A A ... A AH.

I AM THE WHITE NIGHT KING, WHO SHARES HIS NOBLE BLOODLINE WITH THOSE OF HOLY KINGSLAN-

WHITE NIGHT NATION LOST MORE THAN HALF OF THEIR TROOPS IN THE WAR LAST YEAR.

IT'S COMMON PRACTICE TO STRIKE WHEN YOUR ENEMY IS WEAK.

BORING.

ARE ALL HUMANS THIS WEAK?

THIS IS JUST THE RIGHT FOOTHOLD ON THE SURFACE, DON'T YOU THINK?

おお

PROUD BLUE DEMON WARRIORS!

THIS IS OUR VICTORY!

THE REST OF THE DEMON WORLD HAS CHOSEN TO FOLLOW THAT CONCIETED DEMON QUEEN. WE NO LONGER HAVE A PLACE TO RETURN TO.

HOW-EVER,

WE WILL DECIMATE OUR ENEMIES, THE HUMANS, AND TAKE OVER THEIR LANDS!

INVADE THE SURFACE AND EXTERMINATE THE HUMANS!

KNOW THAT THIS IS OUR ONLY WAY TO LIVE!

OUR NEXT TARGET APPEARS TO HAVE MORE BACKBONE THAN THIS ONE.

WE SHOULD HURRY AND TAKE FIRM CONTROL OF THIS LAND.

YES!

HIDE OUR AGREEMENT FROM THE REGULAR TROOPS.

HAVING THEM DEATH-CRAZED WILL MAKE THIS WAR PROGRESS MUCH EASIER.

SO THE NEIGHBORING COUNTRY IS IRON NATION, HUH?

AFTER WE CONTROL THIS LAND, WE'LL QUICKLY MOVE ON TO THE NEXT

THERE'S NO MISTAKE?

AFFIRM-ATIVE!

WHITE NIGHT'S CASTLE HAS FALLEN.

IN JUST ONE NIGHT?

WHAT?!

WINTER NATION PALACE

GET THE FASTEST HORSE YOU CAN!

SEND A MESSENGER TO WINTER PASSING VILLAGE

IRON NATION

WHITE NIGHT NATION

IF WHITE NIGHT NATION HAS FALLEN, THEN THEIR NEXT TARGET MUST BE...

IRON NATION!

SHE'LL UNDERSTAND AND KNOW WHAT TO DO

TELL THIS TO SCHOLAR

"WHITE NIGHT NATION HAS BEEN INVADED, AND THEIR CASTLE TAKEN."

YES!

AS YOU COMMAND!

I MUST HURRY AND MOBILIZE THE CALVALRY TO IRON NATION

DON'T LEAVE OUT A SINGLE WORD IN THE MESSAGE!

DEMONS...

JUST WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

THE BLUE DEMONS BARE THEIR FANGS THE CURTAINS OPEN ON AN AGE OF CHAOS!

TO BE CONTINUED